CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for controlling access to a computer resource, the method comprising:

5   receiving from a requesting entity a request for access to the computer resource;

determining that the requesting entity has a proxy permission, wherein the proxy permission has at least one associated proxy rule; and

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granting access to the computer resource in dependence upon the proxy rule.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the proxy rule comprises at least one condition required for granting access to the computer resource.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the condition has a plurality of possible states.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining that the requesting entity has a proxy permission further comprises finding, in dependence upon a requesting entity identification, an access control entry in an access control list for the computer resource.

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5.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining that the requesting entity has a proxy permission further comprises finding, in dependence upon a requesting entity identification, a proxy permission record in a proxy permission table.

6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising reading a proxy permission indicator from a data structure representing the resource.

7.   The method of claim 5 further comprising reading a proxy permission indicator from an access control list for the resource.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the proxy rule comprises one or more conditions required for granting access to the computer resource and granting access to the computer resource based on the proxy rule further comprises:

5   determining whether the conditions of the proxy rule are met; and

permitting access to the computer resource if the conditions of the proxy rule are met.

9.   The method of claim 8 wherein each condition has a plurality of possible states and granting access to the computer resource based on the proxy rule further comprises evaluating the states of the conditions.

10.   A system for controlling access to a computer resource, the system
        comprising:

        means for receiving from a requesting entity a request for access to the
5   computer resource;

        means for determining that the requesting entity has a proxy permission,
        wherein the proxy permission has at least one associated proxy rule; and

10   means for granting access to the computer resource in dependence upon the
        proxy rule.

11.   The system of claim 10 wherein the proxy rule comprises at least one
        condition required for granting access to the computer resource.

12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the condition has a plurality of possible
        states.

13.   The system of claim 10 wherein means for determining that the requesting
        entity has a proxy permission further comprises means for finding, in
        dependence upon a requesting entity identification, an access control entry in
        an access control list for the computer resource.

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14.   The system of claim 10 wherein means for determining that the requesting
       entity has a proxy permission further comprises means for finding, in
       dependence upon a requesting entity identification, a proxy permission record
       in a proxy permission table.

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15.   The system of claim 14 further comprising means for reading a proxy
       permission indicator from a data structure representing the resource.

16.   The system of claim 14 further comprising means for reading a proxy
       permission indicator from an access control list for the resource.

17.   The system of claim 10 wherein the proxy rule comprises one or more
       conditions required for granting access to the computer resource and means
       for granting access to the computer resource based on the proxy rule further
       comprises:

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       means for determining whether the conditions of the proxy rule are met; and

       means for permitting access to the computer resource if the conditions of the
       proxy rule are met.

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18.   The system of claim 17 wherein each condition has a plurality of possible
       states and means for granting access to the computer resource based on the
       proxy rule further comprises means for evaluating the states of the conditions.

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19.   A computer program product for controlling access to a computer resource, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from a requesting entity a request for access to the computer resource;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining that the requesting

10   entity has a proxy permission, wherein the proxy permission has at least one associated proxy rule; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for granting access to the computer resource in dependence upon the proxy rule.

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20.   The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the proxy rule comprises at least one condition required for granting access to the computer resource.

21.   The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the condition has a plurality of possible states.

22.   The computer program product of claim 19 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining that the requesting entity has a proxy permission further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for

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finding, in dependence upon a requesting entity identification, an access

5   control entry in an access control list for the computer resource.

23.   The computer program product of claim 19 wherein means, recorded on the

recording medium, for determining that the requesting entity has a proxy

permission further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for

finding, in dependence upon a requesting entity identification, a proxy

5   permission record in a proxy permission table.

24.   The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising means,

recorded on the recording medium, for reading a proxy permission indicator

from a data structure representing the resource.

25.   The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising means,

recorded on the recording medium, for reading a proxy permission indicator

from an access control list for the resource.

26.   The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the proxy rule comprises

one or more conditions required for granting access to the computer resource

and means, recorded on the recording medium, for granting access to the

computer resource based on the proxy rule further comprises:

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether the

conditions of the proxy rule are met; and

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for permitting access to the

10   computer resource if the conditions of the proxy rule are met.

27.   The computer program product of claim 26 wherein each condition has a

plurality of possible states and means, recorded on the recording medium, for

granting access to the computer resource based on the proxy rule further

comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for evaluating the states

5   of the conditions.